

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

I am a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, and I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming.

Fox News should be fined heavily and given total blackout time for their lack of "Fair and Balanced" reports. The strong republican bias is not in the interest of the public. In order to make a statement, a fine should not be less than \$250,000,000 and a blackout not less than a week of airtime. Also someone in the corporation needs to be responsible for making sure these rules are carried out. If an audit from the FCC determines that the regulations have not met, then criminal charges against the individual not only the corporation need to be filed. Anything less is just a price of doing business and their actions will continue.

Why is it that the programs on tv can show rape, fighting, and murder while we as a country are not allowed to see the daily events in Iraq and other locations that the US is in conflict with? Is it too graphic to see someone real being murdered in their neighborhood? Well, producer Jerry Brueckheimer calls it entertainment and advertisers flock to buy air time during his programs. TV networks spend more time every Sunday on football than covering events that effect our country as a whole.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day. Time slots for this coverage needs to be during peak primetime hours.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Sincerely,

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